

Historic Ellicott City Flood Workgroup

Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2015 from 6:30PM – 8:30PM

Attendance/Roll Call:

Present
Daniel Durante for Frank Durantaye
Debra Korb
Lori Lilly
Ken McNaughton
Dave Myers
Ron Peters
Bruno Reich
Debbie Slack Katz
Bob Frances
Mark Deluca
Mike Hinson for Ryan Miller
Brandon Bedford
Not present
Jim Caldwell
Kevin Bloom
Raj Kudchadkar
Jason McMillan
Gary Smith

Approval of Minutes – September 14th meeting minutes were approved with the change that Bob Frances is to be noted as present.

Brandon Bedford Introduction – Brandon introduced himself as part of UMD Smart Growth team looking at flood mitigation cost effectiveness. Brandon will attend several meetings and will produce a product next semester based on his research.

Calendar Review – The group confirmed the following meeting schedule through December. **The group changed the meeting times from 6:00pm – 8:00pm.** Dates of the next meetings:

- October 26th
- November 16th
- November 23rd
- December 14th

Focus of First Deliverable – Each group member presented 5-10 points that they wanted to see covered in the report to the County Executive. Mark DeLuca took notes on the dry erase board. The notes are also included here:

Lori Lilly

1. Format the report as Action Plan - Set and state goals – e.g. enhance public safety, reduce peak flows, minimize damage, etc – include measurable objectives – e.g. reduce peak flows by 10%, 80% of residents and business owners will have an emergency plan, etc.
2. No new development in the Tiber Hudson watershed or increase the standard requirements such that further development has significant dis-incentives
3. Fund Phase I and Phase II mitigation projects
4. Repair channel walls – offer multiple mechanisms to all property owners: easements, cost share, grants, etc.
5. Hire a staff person to oversee and coordinate flood mitigation efforts – reports to County Executive, works across departments, submits grants, coordinates and spearheads forward momentum
6. Implement floodproofing projects - Re-create FEMA process with a local model; provide technical assistance to businesses and homeowners; get lists of qualified contractors that can meet historic district standards; provide cost share
7. Initiate community level planning for emergency preparedness (e.g. sand bags, monitoring and disseminating info from stream gage), communications and recovery
8. Provide a one-stop shop online dedicated resource page for all information related to EC flooding, mitigation, preparedness, technical resources, grant programs, meeting minutes from Flood Workgroup, etc

Ron Peters

1. Remove debris from channels regularly
2. Check channels after storm and wind events for new debris removal and document with photo / video
3. Repair walls
4. Increase size of existing stormwater management ponds and add new ones (29/40 interchange)
5. Increase size of pipes under Frederick Rd – change to bridges where possible
6. Flood alert – add siren / alarm to new system at Colored School
7. Walking bridge behind Visitor's Center is too low

Bruno Reich

1. Spillway / storage under Main St
2. Storage under Lot F
3. Increase channel size in Lot D
4. Make the riverbeds a park with walkways
5. Create a quarry that will also store water
6. Create a private co-op of sorts to make smaller improvements to walls

Daniel Durante

1. Repair walls within two years
2. Remove from conversation talks about homeowners personal responsibility
3. Delineate funding between stormwater management (flooding) and water quality
4. Stop all new development
5. If purchasing properties, offer the option to everyone at risk [County does not have total control; some determination is dictated by FEMA]
6. County outreach to homeowners who have lived in EC a long time to share knowledge

Ken McNaughton

1. Monitor amount of debris on island in Patapsco
2. Monitor trees and debris in three other non-Hudson streams
3. Make the riverbeds a park with walkways
4. Promote flood preparedness video

Dave Meyers

1. Work with County delegation to find grant / funding opportunities
2. Work with federal agencies to identify federal assistance
3. Create a program to identify places for floodproofing
4. Educate new property owners and tenants about flood risk
5. Offer incentives to HOAs and businesses to implement infrastructure remediation
6. Continue funding and support of the READY program
7. Seeking public / private partnerships for funding infrastructure improvements

Debra Korb

1. Explore use of drone technology to do monitoring
2. Implement community-level planning
3. Add audible community alarms

Debbie Slack Katz

1. Add deliverables to report to CE
2. Real time monitoring of water levels
3. Web-page
4. Create position for staff as a grant writer
5. Develop public / private partnership for funding as well as awareness
6. Seek other partnerships to be involved in flood awareness and collateral, e.g. Red Cross and Southwest Airlines
7. Hold joint meeting with other groups in County, e.g. Stewards
8. Have a Water Day to raise awareness

Mike Hinson

1. Water Day – have guest speakers – e.g. instant command in SC
2. Documentation is needed after flood events

The group discussed over-arching goals related to these actions:

- Enhance public safety
- Minimize damage – properties and lives
- Protect historic district
- Minimize water?

The group drafted the goals into the following first sentence for the report:

The Flood Workgroup is making the following recommendations to the County Executive with the goals of protecting the historic district, enhancing public safety and minimizing loss of life and damage to properties.

The group would like to summarize / categorize each group member's ideas and tasked **Lori to initially categorize / group the above items; each group member will then add more detail to his/her own items.** This categorization is presented below.

New Business: Member topics of interest, important events, etc.

- The READY program will be out next week (week of 10/26) maintaining channels from behind the behind the Wine Bin to the Patapsco as well as a section upstream of Lot D.

Structural

1. Fund Phase I and Phase II mitigation projects
2. Repair channel walls
 - Offer multiple mechanisms to all property owners: easements, cost share, grants, etc.
 - Within 2 years
3. Implement floodproofing projects - Re-create FEMA process with a local model; provide technical assistance to businesses and homeowners; get lists of qualified contractors that can meet historic district standards; provide cost share
4. Increase size of existing stormwater management ponds and add new ones (29/40 interchange)
5. Increase size of pipes under Frederick Rd – change to bridges where possible
6. Walking bridge behind Visitor's Center is too low
7. Spillway / storage under Main St
8. Storage under Lot F
9. Increase channel size in Lot D
10. Make the riverbeds a park with walkways
11. Create a quarry that will also store water
12. Create a private co-op of sorts to make smaller improvements to walls
13. Make the riverbeds a park with walkways

Maintenance / Monitoring

1. Remove debris from channels regularly
2. Check channels after storm and wind events for new debris removal and document with photo / video

3. Monitor amount of debris on island in Patapsco
4. Monitor trees and debris in three other non-Hudson streams
5. Explore use of drone technology to do monitoring
6. Real time monitoring of water levels
7. Monitor status and progress of all recommendations made to CE

Education

1. Provide a one-stop shop online dedicated resource page for all information related to EC flooding, mitigation, preparedness, technical resources, grant programs, meeting minutes from Flood Workgroup, etc
2. County outreach to homeowners who have lived in EC a long time to share knowledge
3. Promote flood preparedness video
4. Educate new property owners and tenants about flood risk
9. Have a Water Day to raise awareness
 - a. Have guest speakers – e.g. instant command in SC

Programmatic / Capacity

1. Hire a staff person to oversee and coordinate flood mitigation efforts – reports to County Executive, works across departments, submits grants, coordinates and spearheads forward momentum
 - o Create position for staff as a grant writer
2. Work with County delegation to find grant / funding opportunities
3. Work with federal agencies to identify federal assistance
4. Offer incentives to HOAs and businesses to implement infrastructure remediation
5. Continue funding and support of the READY program
6. Seek public / private partnerships for funding infrastructure improvements
 - o Expand this to include awareness
7. Create a program to identify places for floodproofing

Emergency Preparedness

1. Initiate community level planning for emergency preparedness (e.g. sand bags, monitoring and disseminating info from stream gage), communications and recovery
2. Flood alert – add siren / alarm to new system at Colored School
3. Create position for staff as a grant writer

Other

4. Format the report as Action Plan - Set and state goals – e.g. enhance public safety, reduce peak flows, minimize damage, etc – include measurable objectives – e.g. reduce peak flows by 10%, 80% of residents and business owners will have an emergency plan, etc.
 - o Add deliverables to report to CE
5. No new development in the Tiber Hudson watershed or increase the standard requirements such that further development has significant dis-incentives

6. Remove from conversation talks about homeowners personal responsibility
7. Delineate funding between stormwater management (flooding) and water quality
8. If purchasing properties, offer the option to everyone at risk [County does not have total control; some determination is dictated by FEMA]
9. Seek other partnerships to be involved in flood awareness and collateral, e.g. Red Cross and Southwest Airlines
10. Hold joint meeting with other groups in County, e.g. Stewards